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June 16, 1998 14 : '99 JUN 21 A10 :43

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food"

Dear Sir / Madam:

I am writing to express my strongly held opinion regarding the irradiation of our food supply. I am opposed to such treatment and am deeply disturbed that the Agency contemplates allowing irradiation without adequate warning to consumers.

Food treated with radiation **MUST** continue to be clearly labeled with the radura (the international symbol for irradiated food) and a statement indicating it was treated with radiation. The absence of such a statement misleads consumers because irradiation destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that are not obvious or expected.

Furthermore, irradiation creates a new class of unique radiolytic products that have never been tested for the possible carcinogenic effects on humans. As a result, new volumes of radioactive waste from Cobalt-60 and Cesium will plague our nation, exposing workers to toxic radionuclides when we have yet to establish a safe solution for disposal of existing nuclear waste.

I am appalled at the success Agribusiness has already achieved at foisting irradiation on America, thanks to insidious lobbying campaigns on Congress.

Therefore, at this juncture, I must demand that such foods be clearly labeled. It would be appropriate for all public comments to be placed on the Internet so that the public can be informed about who is participating.

Sincerely,



Michael Fiorentino

98N-1038

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